

DEKALB COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

March 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Linda Chapman, recording secretary, at 11:10 a.m. She then went over the handouts about the Area 2 Conference to see whether anyone was interested in representing our unit. Attendees received copies of the last meeting minutes and they were approved. Joyce McConkey, treasurer, reported we had \$743.30 in the treasury.

Amanda Christensen DeKalb County Superintendent of Schools was our guest speaker. She was raised in Dekalb and went through DeKalb schools and went to NIU. She taught for 2 years in Aurora, then the Consortium for a year in DeKalb. She then taught English in the DeKalb High School. She then ran for and won the office of DeKalb County Superintendent

Amanda had handouts of the statistics on the schools in the county. Her job entails truancy monitoring with necessary interventions to get the students back in school even providing goods such as food, clothes, personal hygiene items, tutoring services, or transportation. Family dynamics plays a big role in truancy as well as homelessness. There is no teen shelter in DeKalb County which further exasperates the problem.

Given the state finances, she has had to provide services when funds have been decreased. Therefore, she has written and received grants. Obviously with changes in how schools are being labeled now as Tier 1 or 2 instead of AYP, changes have been made in how services are provided. Schools do not know their tier yet and that makes it difficult to budget for services.

Retired teachers in the county can pay for Professional Development that is offered through DeKalb County Superintendent's office if they are interested. Her office is working with DeKalb Community Foundation on a birth to third grade project about early child development.

Amanda addressed the student enrollment issue of who does not reside in the district. The lawsuit resulted from the lack of information about why a student is in the district but not living with their legal guardian.

School safety is a concern and she told us the district must have an active shooter drill once a year and document it. Districts are looking at options other than a lockdown. The school personnel meet with her once a quarter to discuss safety and facility safety.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. for the members to enjoy the buffet lunch in the Oak Crest dining room.

Respectfully submitted

Linda S. Chapman

Recording Secretary

DeKalb County Retired Teachers' Association